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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: As this issue of the JOURNAL is devoted to convention proceedings, the regular articles, departments and items are held over until the August number.

A LETTER FROM THE JOURNAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Readers of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING:

When the first news of Miss Palmer's illness with its serious prognosis came to us, we were shocked beyond ability to think, but it was not until a few days later, when the announcement that she had "passed beyond" was made, that we in any sense realized our loss.

Miss Palmer has gone from us but in a way strangely real she is still in our midst. She has left a legacy few of her contemporaries will be privileged to leave and her memory will linger for many years to come in the minds of those who have known her and have been influenced by her. To those who come after, the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING will be a monument which will ever keep her before the women who comprise our great and loved profession.

To Miss Palmer we largely owe the fact that the JOURNAL OF NURSING was established and she has been its editor since the beginning. To Miss Palmer we owe much of the progress in our profession to-day. She was a pioneer who lived to see the fruits of her work. Through the pages of the JOURNAL she scattered the good seed which has brought forth fruit one hundred fold. She was ever among the first to promote progress and, stone upon stone, she helped to lay the foundation upon which our nursing profession in this country now stands. To her we owe more than we can ever record and we are privileged to have lived and worked with her.

As a JOURNAL Board we sorrow for her but rejoice in the fact that her life was one of service and that the world is better because she lived and had a part in it.

SARAH E. SLY, *President*,
ELSIE M. LAWLER, *Secretary*.

RANK FOR NURSES ACHIEVED

The Jones-Raker bill for Rank for Nurses is now law. On May 27, the Conference Committee reached a final agreement on all issues of army reorganization and made their report, which contained the following sentence: "The provision for the relative rank of nurses was agreed to, it being contained in both bills." The report was agreed to by the House on May 28, and by the Senate on May 29. On June 4, the President signed the bill, which went into effect immediately.

The Conference Committee used the phraseology of the original

Jones-Raker bill with the exception of the last clause. For this it substituted the sentence: "The Secretary of War shall make the necessary regulations prescribing the rights and privileges conferred by such relative rank." Such language occurs frequently in Army and Navy legislation and I am advised that it is hardly likely to be construed unfavorably to our interests.

To the hundreds of persons, nurses, doctors and lay persons, who by their unselfish and spirited coöperation have made this law, the National Committee to Secure Rank for Nurses proudly acknowledges its indebtedness and gives unmeasured thanks.

HELEN HOY GREELEY, *Counsel.*

AN IMPORTANT QUESTIONNAIRE

The American Conference on Hospital Service, of which our three national nursing organizations are a part, was organized in October, 1919, to consider all matters which have to do with the work of a hospital. A meeting of this Conference was held in Chicago, March 3, 1920, at which time a Committee on Nursing was appointed with Mary C. Wheeler of Chicago as chairman. This committee was asked to make a study of the nursing problem as it exists to-day in both the United States and in Canada, with special reference to the present methods of education of nurses.

Members of the medical and nursing professions are asked to send written answers to the questionnaire which follows, addressing either Elnora E. Thomson, Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, 2559 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, or Louise M. Powell, University Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn.

What is your opinion of the value of the three years' course for nurses connected with hospitals? The two-year course for nurses connected with hospitals? The high school pre-nursing courses? The Red Cross extension courses? Short courses and correspondence nursing courses?

Are the principles laid down in the nursing education in these courses right or wrong? If right, why does not present nursing education adequately meet the nursing need? If wrong, how should the training of nurses be made right?

What use are the graduates of these various schools making of their training?

What misuse are the graduates of these schools making of their training?

What, if any, is the nurse wastage during training?

What, if any, is the nurse wastage after finishing the course?

What are some of the reasons for the shortage of nurses to-day?

What suggestions can be made as to changes in the training which will make it efficient and yet not lower the nursing standard?